

HEALTH MATTERS

Kennel Cough Vaccination

The Canine Health Concern News updated in January had an interesting piece on Kennel Cough Vaccination.

A question had been asked as to whether vets gave datasheets to accompany the vaccine when they vaccinate a dog against kennel cough.

THE WORDING on the sheet apparently reads:-

Vaccinated animals can spread the Bordetella Bronchiseptico vaccine strain for six weeks and the Para Influenza vaccine strain for a few days after vaccination.

It is therefore advisable to avoid close contact between immunocompromised humans and vaccinated animals during this period. Immunocompromised individuals should avoid any contact with the vaccine and vaccinated dogs up to six weeks after vaccination.

Vaccinated dogs may excrete the vaccine strain of Bordetella Bronchiseptico up to seven weeks following vaccination. During this time Immunosuppressed person are advised to avoid contact with vaccinated dogs. Similar precautions are also application to unvaccinated in-contact or immunosuppressed animals.

According to CHC what these datasheets actually mean is that kennel cough vaccine can give your dog kennel cough and cause outbreaks of kennel cough in other dogs.

It also means that when a dog is given kennel cough vaccine, he can give his owners and other people a form of WHOOPING COUGH. This means that if you give your dog the Bordetella vaccine (which is squirted up his nose) you need to avoid contact with him for six weeks, less you come down with a nasty disease. If you are Immunocompromised, meaning SICK or ELDERLY or VERY YOUNG, you could get very ill.

How many people are given the datasheet or told by the vet of the risks and that they should avoid contact with their dogs for six weeks after vaccination?

If anyone is putting their dog in kennels it would be advisable to check with their vet and the kennel and also to ensure they have the vaccination at least six weeks before boarding.